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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Subsidiary bodies authorized to meet away from their established headquarters in accordance with section I, paragraph 4, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

U. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

1. In accordance with the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was requested to organize alternately during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, where most of the colonial Territories are situated. They have been considered to be an important forum for enabling the Special Committee to get access to first-hand information about the Territories and to listen to the views of the representatives of the Territories, as well as the States and organizations in those regions.

2. These seminars have been necessitated by the lack of formal cooperation on the part of some administering Powers and their refusal to extend invitations to send United Nations visiting missions to the Territories. The Special Committee has repeatedly stated that it is ready to review the role of the seminars once the administering Powers extend such invitations.

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3. In 1997 the Special Committee has devoted further attention to the question and discussed it informally with the administering Powers, that is, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, respectively. An agreement was included in General Assembly resolution 51/224, adopted without a vote on 27 March 1997. The Special Committee had also discussed the matter in depth in connection with the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/51/486), including a presentation at the meeting of the Special Committee by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, a report of the Special Committee on the subject (A/AC.109/2085), as well as a letter from the Chairman of the Special Committee addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/220).

4. The report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services clearly indicated that there were no financial irregularities or misuse of funds. However, the Special Committee considered that some of the erroneous conclusions in the report should have been avoided and the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services pledged to take into consideration the concerns of the Special Committee. Nevertheless, the Special Committee has again reviewed the seminars, which are still considered to be an essential component of its work.